

REMARKS

Claims 4, 6-11, 26-31, 33 and 34 are pending in the application.

Claims 4, 7-11, 27-29, 33 and 34 are rejected as unpatentable over LINDBERG et al. WO 97/19737 and claims 6, 26, 30 and 31 are separately rejected as unpatentable over LINDBERG et al.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested, as the reference does not disclose or suggest spaced anti-tracking ribs that project from the inner surface of the side wall at a distance of 1-2 mm which is sufficient to enable the canister to be removed from a male mould member during a moulding process while still being sufficiently flexible as recited in claim 4.

The position set forth in the Official Action is that LINDBERG et al. do not disclose a distance of 1-2 mm for the protection of anti-racking ribs but that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the distance of the projection is dependent upon the user/manufacturer of the canister and could be formed to be 1-2 mm. The reasoning set forth in the Official Action in support of this position is that if LINDBERG et al. were to have anti-tracking ribs of 1-2 mm as

recited, then the device of LINDBERG et al. would not perform differently from the anti-tracking ribs as claimed in claim 4. This assertion is not supported by what was known by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Specifically, the rib structure in LINDBERG et al. and the ribs of the present application are quite different. The ribs of LINDBERG et al. impinge on the paper to deform the paper to perform the anti-tracking function. In contrast, in the present application, it is the paper impinging on the ribs.

Applicants submit herewith a Declaration Under Rule 132 to rebut the position set forth in the Official Action. As set forth in the Declaration, the ribs of LINDBERG et al. were placed in an attempt to improve anti-tracking. Specifically, the ribs were placed at the top and bottom of the canister to increase the pressure at the top and bottom to produce anti-tracking problems at higher loads. Relatively large ribs were used in order to apply sufficient pressure.

Since the Declarant, Mr. Kenneth Mortenson, as one of ordinary skill in the art and a co-inventor in LINDBERG et al., did not find it obvious to use smaller ribs, the reasoning underlying the present invention does not support the assertion of obviousness set forth in the Official Action. In addition, the claimed ribs and the ribs of LINDBERG et al. perform differently, and thus the claimed canister is patentably distinct

from the prior art canister. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claim 4 are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-11, 26 and 28 depend from claim 4 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over LINDBERG et al.

Claim 27 provides that the ribs are unevenly spaced. The Official Action indicates that Figure 1, the abstract, and pages 3-11 of LINDBERG et al. teach ribs being unevenly spaced from each other. The top left-hand drawing of Figure 1 appears to show three sets of two ribs wherein the middle set of ribs is equidistant between the top and bottom sets. The ribs of LINDBERG et al. apply pressure to the filter. It is therefore not apparent why one of ordinary skill in the art would unevenly space the ribs from each other since this would appear to exert uneven pressure on different parts of the filter cartridge.

As to claim 29, LINDBERG et al. on page 11, lines 1-3 and as shown in Figure 5, teach a grid assembly, not a base having an axially extending annular projection defining an annular channel in said base, as recited in claim 29. Claims 30, 31, 33, and 34 depend from claim 29 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over LINDBERG et al.

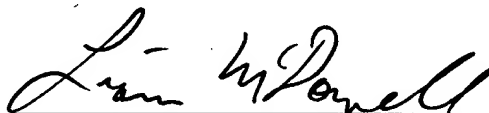
In view of the foregoing remarks and the Declaration Under Rule 132, it is believed that the present application has

been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liam McDowell", is written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- an executed Declaration Under Rule 132